

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

U. S. Army Has Ten Officers Training in France

WASHINGTON.—The movement of American troops to Mexico brings to notice the fact that ten United States army officers, representing all branches of the service, are on duty in France for instruction in French military training. They are there by permission of the French government, given upon request of the United States, and are welcomed in the friendliest spirit. It appears to be the intention of the war department at Washington to have six officers continuously on service in France, so that French experience and French military science may from year to year be available for the United States army. Occasionally an English officer or officers from the Balkan

other smaller states have had permission to serve with one or another of the French regiments, but it would seem that no foreign army, not even the Russian, has during this generation had such opportunities to know the French military system as the Americans now have.

Capt. W. A. Castle is in an infantry regiment at Orleans; Capt. N. Margoties and Lieut. A. T. Bishop with other regiments at Chalons, Surgeon T. Marne and T. Martin at the cavalry school at Saumur, Capt. F. H. Pope in the French quartermaster's school and Capt. Frank Parker at the war college. Capt. Morton Henry of the American quartermaster's division and Lieut. E. S. Greble and Honeycutt of the artillery have just arrived to replace three other American officers and three others are expected. The three latter do not get into the French service until October. In the meantime they are required to live in French families and perfect their knowledge of French. Captain Parker, in the war college, the exclusive school of higher strategy, has probably the rarest opportunity and one not shared by any other foreign officer. Eighty French officers are admitted annually out of from 400 to 500 applicants who take the severe competitive examination. Years of study are devoted by the French officer in preparation for this examination, because all selections for the general staff are made from graduates of the war college, and no French officer need expect a high command unless he has gone successfully through this training in the deeper problems of strategy.

An armchair has been placed for Captain Parker apart from the other officers and nearest the lecturer's platform, so that the American guest may have a better chance than any one else to follow the exposition of a subject and see the diagrams. The work in the war college is severe and is from 6 a. m. to 6 p. m. Part of it consists in hard riding over battlefields of France, the lecturer of the day explaining the operations of the troops that took part.

Pigeons at Washington Know the Market Days

IF YOU stand on the steps of the new National museum you will notice many pigeons on a street. The street divides the museum from the market, and on the far side there are rickety wagons, hitched to droopy horses—mostly white—and many chickens in crates. And if you are lucky enough to meet on the steps a little, old man, who looks like a dried apple that had a soul to it, he will tell you something like this:

"Yes'm, those pigeons know market days as well as the hucksters do. They come from all over the city for the bits of grain and green stuff that get spilled or thrown away. And every pigeon strikes it on time, like gulls follow a train at meal times on the Salt Lake desert. How they get from the seashore precisely in time for the cooks to fling garbage from the diners is something I can't tell you. All I know is they are there. Some folks miscount angels on account of their feather wings, but the way I look at it is that the one who put all that cleverness into bird creatures can be safely relied on to run this world and the next without any advice from me."

"Hear them roosters crowing! It's curious the way a rooster can put his state of mind into a crow. Now you listen to that one. That ain't the cockadoodle of a free rooster on his own walk. He's calling out in the only way God gave him for somebody to come and free him from that wire crate. Maybe he don't know what's going to happen to him between this and somebody's Sunday dinner, but he don't need any telling that he's in trouble."

"And did you ever figure out about white horses? Now, you take that lot alongside the curb over yonder. The biggest half of those horses are white. That's because white horses don't take with rich people. You scarcely ever see a white team in a fine carriage, but they are always pulling country wagons and dump carts."

Uncle Sam Has a Veritable Mountain of Money

FABLE writers have pictured money growing on trees. And the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow has been the traditional will-o'-the-wisp for generations. But never before has there been a veritable mountain of money.

Nature has produced mountains whose buried wealth has entitled them to be called mountains of silver and gold, but it has remained for man to produce a mountain of greenbacks.

Three departments of the United States government have co-operated in this project, which required the united efforts of eleven experts for a period of three months, and, in addition, a cool million of Uncle Sam's macerated greenbacks for its surface.

The interior department, the agriculture and the treasury all joined forces over the arrangements for the million-dollar mountain, which is a model—a carefully made, perfectly detailed and topographically correct working model—of Yosemite park, the government reservation in Mariposa county, California, on the western side of the Sierra Nevada, which is the mecca for all westward-bound tourists who wish to feast their eyes upon its unequalled scenic grandeur.

This is the largest working model of its kind in the United States today, since it is five feet by twelve and weighs 600 pounds. Some of the great difficulties involved in its construction may be appreciated when it is remembered that it is a perfect reproduction in miniature of a tract of meadows, mountains, chasms, lakes, streams, falls, precipices, forests, vast gorges and huge boulders that cover an area of about the proportions of the state of Rhode Island, for the Yosemite park comprises no less than 1,124 square miles.

United States to Take Census of National Bird Life

A CENSUS of all the birds of the United States is to be taken this summer by the federal government. In announcing this fact the other day the department of agriculture, which will supervise the work, urges co-operation of all bird lovers. The primary object of the census is the preservation of this important game.

The count of the bird population is to begin about May 30, and the department hopes to have the final results in hand by June 30. As a beginning 250 correspondents in all parts of the country will assist in taking the census, but voluntary observers are expected to furnish most of the data for this undertaking.

In the enumeration an effort is to be made to determine how many pairs of birds of each species breed within the year. It is estimated that there are about 100 million pairs of birds in the United States.

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GREEN MANURE CROPS

EXCELLENT PRACTISE, AS IT ADDS NEW LIFE TO THE SOIL.

Organic Matter is Gradually Converted Into Humus, an Absolutely Essential Constituent of the Soil—Secret of Fertility.

(By W. H. STEVENSON, Copyright, 1914.) Any crops grown and plowed under green to increase the productive capacity of the soil are called green manure crops. Sometimes such crops occupy the land for only a part of the season. They are then known as "cover" crops or "catch" crops.

Green manuring is an important practise, chiefly because it adds organic matter to the soil, which is gradually converted into humus, an absolutely essential constituent of the soil. Of course humus may be secured by applying barnyard manure, but as a rule there is not enough of this material to meet the needs of the land. However, green manuring is not enough in itself to keep a soil from wearing out, so other practises must be followed. Crops must be grown in rotation, the moisture content of the soil regulated, proper tillage practised, the soil kept sweet, the supply of mineral plant food maintained, especially the supply of phosphorus and potassium, and the nitrogen content of the soil kept up. These factors all play an important part in keeping the soil productive, but they are not more important than green manuring.

In general, green manures are beneficial when used on poor soils because of their action on the physical, chemical and bacteriological conditions of the soil. From the physical side green manures influence the moisture, temperature and aeration of soils. For example, on light, sandy soils they prevent rapid drying out by reducing the losses of moisture due to evaporation and percolation, and further make the soil more compact. While they have just the opposite effect on heavy clay soils, here the organic matter opens up the soil and admits air.

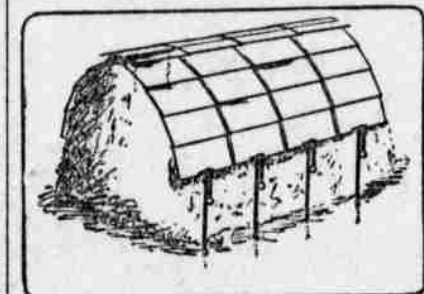
The practise of leaving the soil bare during July and August following the harvest of a small grain crop is very bad, as it causes the loss of large amounts of nitrogen by percolation. These losses may be prevented in a large measure by growing green manure crops on the land; especially is this true of leguminous crops, which stimulate greater bacterial action, and as a result larger amounts of available plant food are produced. Rye, wheat, buckwheat and rape are the non-leguminous crops which are commonly used for green manuring, while red clover, mammoth clover, sweet clover, crimson clover, Canada field peas, cowpeas, soy beans and vetches are the best known legumes for this purpose.

The secret of keeping our gardens and fields fertile is to plow deep, and if necessary subsoil, cultivate thoroughly and plant leguminous crops.

HANDY COVER FOR HAYSTACK

Covering Works Automatically as Stack Settles—Won't Blow Loose in High Winds.

The Scientific American in describing a haystack cover, the invention of F. A. Freeland of Atholston, Ia., says: This invention has special reference to novel and useful improvements in covers for haystacks. The primary object of the invention resides in the provision of an improved cover which will automatically adjust



Haystack Cover.

Itself to a stack as the latter settles, whereby the stack will not only be protected, but the cover will be prevented from blowing loose in case of high winds. The accompanying illustration is a perspective view of the improved self-adjusting haystack cover applied to a stack.

MAKING THE ASPARAGUS BED

Patch May Be Renewed by Liberal Application of Stable Manure—Weed Out by Hand.

An old asparagus bed can be renewed in vigor by covering it freely with stable manure in late fall or early winter, removing the coarse part in the spring, such as would impede the cultivator. When spring comes cultivate, but not too deep, with the horse cultivator, and clear out the weeds and grass with a hoe, being careful not to cut off the new growth which springs up very early in the spring. Perhaps it would be better to weed the patch out by hand rather than to endanger cutting off the young shoots. A slight scattering of salt along the row would do no harm. Salt is supposed to be a special fertilizer for asparagus.

Wash Sink in Stable. A modern stable should contain a wash sink with the necessary fixtures about it for the proper care of the horses and animals. You can have

EFFECTIVE TRAPS FOR RATS

Useful Around Corn Crib, Barns and Other Farm Buildings—Rodents Cannot Escape.

The Burmese use an ingenious and simple method of trapping rats. A jar with a weighted cover is sunk into the side of the jar on a level with the surface of the ground and just large enough to admit a good, big rat. It is not necessary to use a poison in the jar for the purpose of killing the rats, for the rodents cannot get out of the jar and may easily



Burmese Rat Trap.

be drowned. A bait of cheese or some other food which rats are fond of will attract the rats by its odor. This kind of a trap is very effective around barns, corn cribs, sheds and other outbuildings.

VARIOUS SOILS FOR WHEAT

Moisture Content, Especially During Period When Grain is Filling, Affects the Quality.

(By R. W. THATCHER.) There is a quite common idea that the difference in quality of wheat grown in different localities is due to the effect of the different soil types on the composition. In order to ascertain whether this be true the writer, in an experiment conducted in another state, shipped soil from each of two localities, where wheat of widely different quality is grown, to the other, and after carefully placing the soil back into as nearly its natural condition as possible, planted seed wheat from each locality upon both the native and the transferred soil at both places. This was repeated for two years, and each year the wheat was of one quality when grown at one place, regardless of the kind of soil upon which it grew, and of a different quality when grown at the other place. Further, the wheat which grew on the different soils, at either place, was as nearly alike as any two samples grown on adjacent plots of the same soil were found to be.

A similar experiment which is being conducted by the United States department of agriculture, in which soil has been shipped from Virginia and California to Kansas, and from Kansas and California to Virginia, and seeded to wheat in the same way, is giving precisely similar results. It appears, therefore, that the composition of the soil has very little influence upon the quality of the wheat which grows on it. The moisture content of soil, especially during the period when the grain is filling, does have a very marked effect upon the quality of the wheat.

POTATO BUGS ON EGGPLANTS

Ordinary Wire Screening Placed Over Each Plant is Most Effective Means of Protection.

One vegetable that potato bugs like better than potatoes is the eggplant, says Agriculturist. You may pick the marauders twice a day, but even then they often get the better of the succulent plants. An effective method of meeting the situation is to protect the plants by covering. Cut ordinary wire screen, such as is used for windows, into the proper form to make cones (a semi-circle) and fasten together by sewing with fine wire. Apply a coat of thin paint for their preservation and set one over each plant.

The patch of August Graft of Ulster county, N. Y., certainly showed well the difference between protected and unprotected plants, in spite of diligent efforts to save the latter. The covered plants seemed also to be benefited by the slight shading during their early growth.

The wire cones cost money. It is true. Mr. Graft invested \$32 in the material for 500 covers. However, one or two good eggs from each plant will cover the cost. The cones may be used year after year. This device on first sight appears impractical, but on actual test it has proved a money maker.

Great Value of Silo. Has your farm a silo? If not, you had better enlighten yourself more concerning their great value in the dairy business. A silo enables the farmer to store a greater amount of feed in less space than he can otherwise do. It requires double the amount of space to store the same amount of dry nutrients and rough age.

Poultry Feeding Notes. Where the dry feed system is adopted, the fowls should be watered at the time they are fed.

There is not much danger of over-fattening the laying hen. You cannot offend the hen by giving her a dish of butter-milk.

TAMPICO DIRTY CITY

Discovery of Oil Makes Change in Mexican Town.

Despite Grimy Evidences of Commerce Port Still is Central American and Interesting—Much Bustle Evident.

New York.—At last Tampico has become world known. On that cluster of bungalows, the old church and the jail built on a sand heap, the eyes of the world are focused.

The little port up the Panuco river, Tampico, ought never to have become a great city. It has none of the instincts of a city. If only oil had not been discovered the place would be today as it was 100 years ago—a lazy, fly bitten center of indolent industry. A point at the end of the river convenient for bartering purposes; somewhere where the Indian women could beach their canoes and exchange their fruits and dye stuffs for cloth and gaudy finery.

Nowadays there are wharves there and a railway depot. Big steamers are alongside the quays and mechanics in dirty blue overalls make the landscape unpleasant to look upon. Where once there was nothing but the subtle murmur of exquisite heat, now there is the noise of locomotives and the jarring rattle of the gear of unloading steamers.

Apart from the unlively evidence of increasing prosperity, Tampico is still picturesque. Only its water side, its river front, has been "improved." Behind the smashing noise of the railway depot the old rabble of houses and drinking shops and churches remain. The place in its essence, as it were, is still Central American and beautiful. Dirty, yes, but splendidly dirty.

The old square remains, and by the square the green and white cathedral and the white painted, dirt incrustated jail. The jail is a romance in itself. It is a place unique. Perhaps the most democratic prison in all the world. There you can be lodged for some trivial offense—drunkenness, for instance—and then perhaps forgotten. If you have no friends or no money, you might remain there for months. Justice—or should we call it law?—in Tampico is a casual thing. Everything is a matter of tomorrow—the tomorrow which never comes. So that if you happen to be a prisoner without outside influence your stay may be a prolonged one—unless you have a few dollars with which to bribe the jailer. The worst of it is, your fellow prisoners will probably steal your clothes.

But, in spite of the wharves and the railway, the old native market remains. The people from upriver still come downstream in their dugout canoes and barter with the town folk. They exchange honey and sarsaparilla and luscious fruits for pulque, tobacco and cloth. Pulque of course, is the native spirit—the fermented juice of the aloe—which produces quick drunkenness.

The little brown skinned, dark eyed children still gambol in happy nakedness beneath the old bridge; and there one still hears the music of the native instruments. The women from

Will Revive Greek Ideals

Noted English Physical Culturist Here to Show Americans How to Perfect Minds and Bodies.

New York.—Mrs. Diana Watts, the noted English physical culturist, is here with her revived Greek ideal for the perfection of our minds and bodies. Five years of study, during which time Mrs. Watts isolated herself on the Isle of Capri, off the coast of Italy, has convinced her that she has rediscovered the Greek ideal of physical fitness which has been lost to the world for centuries.

Though she admits she has reached the age of forty-seven, she stands before

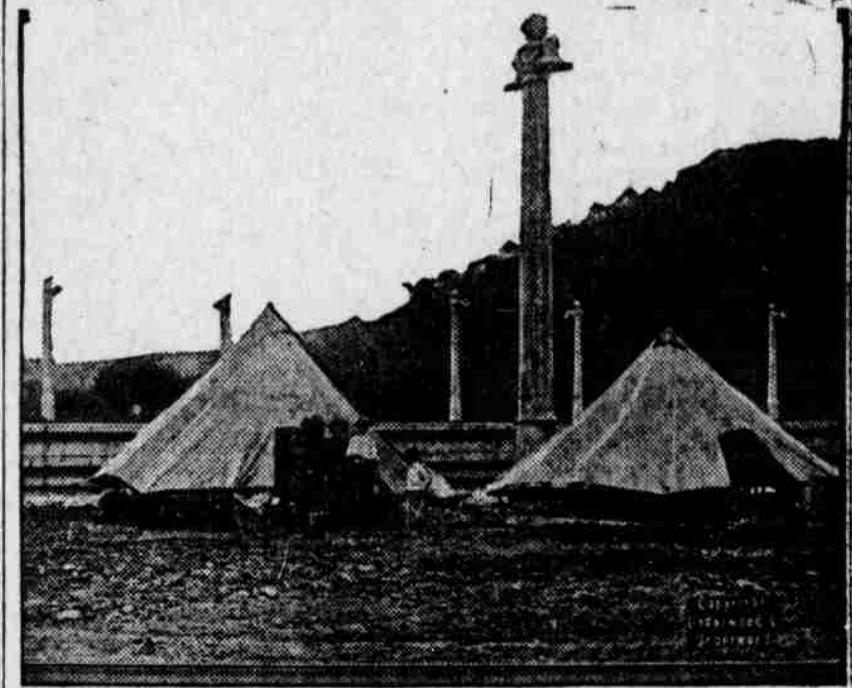


Mrs. Diana Watts.

the public today, a new type of perfect woman. The flush of youth is in her cheeks, and in every line of her supple body is traced the contour of youth. The energy and vitality of a strong man is in her pliant muscles. All this she has achieved in five years after working out the methods employed by the ancient Greeks.

Mrs. Watts has the distinction of being the only woman who appeared on the platform of the Institute Mary of Paris. At the invitation of Professor

PROTECTING THE PANAMA CANAL



To guard against any possible attack on the Panama canal there is now stationed at each of the locks one company of United States infantrymen. The photograph shows some of the soldiers and their tents at Pedro Miguel.

SURPRISES HER SOCIAL SET

Miss Jeannette Allen, Noted Horsewoman, Announces Engagement One Day and Marries Next.

Washington.—Miss Jeannette Allen, the daring equestrienne daughter of Lieut. Col. and Mrs. Henry T. Allen, and one of the leaders in the younger army set in Washington, has surprised her friends by announcing on a recent Sunday her engagement to marry Lieut. F. M. Andrews of the Second

American industry and capital have combined; together they have converted a remote, shallow and most treacherous roadstead into an important harbor. The engineers brought rocks from the mountains—70 miles away—and piled them out to sea. They built two great breakwaters, 1,000 feet apart, which extend to a distance of 7,000 feet into the gulf. Thus, after a million dollars or so was spent, Tampico, from being a little village seven miles up a surf guarded river, became a widely known port. The city is still seven miles up the Panuco river, but now big steamers cross its shattered bar and moor alongside the wharves which front its railway system.

The Panuco river is a curious stream, wide and swift flowing. It winds and twists, and is instinct with many weird currents. Navigators are not in love with it. As a matter of fact it is easier for big ships to hit one of its banks than to keep within the fairway.

Jailers Attend Banquet

Chicago.—After making every prisoner promise to be good and not get into mischief, jailers and guards at the county jail locked cell doors, turned out the lights and attended a banquet to Sheriff Michael Zimmer in the Congress hotel.

SEES HIS LEGS CUT OFF

Application of Local Anesthetics and His Own Nerve Make It Possible.

Denver.—"Go to it, doc! Saw 'em off above those bum knees! That's it! Good boy, doc! Say, but that's some neat job."

William Dunn sat in an operating chair at the county hospital and smilingly watched the amputation of his two worthless legs, as he talked.

That he was able to take a directing part in the operation was due to the use of local anesthetics.

"Now I can get out and earn my own way," Dunn chatted on, while the surgeon was busy with knife and saw.

The surgeon who performed the successful operation on Dunn's legs has fitted up a crude wheeled chair for his patient to use in selling papers when the leg stumps heal.

Dunn suffered from locomotor ataxia 12 years.

Dog-Eating in Germany.

Paris.—Despite the frequency in the poorer quarters of Paris of the stores called "Chateau Cheval," the name indicating that the butcher is selling horseflesh, hitherto no dogs have been introduced in the French cuisine. Le Matin publishes an article on German fondness for dogflesh, with an elaborate chart of figures showing the increased yearly consumption throughout Germany during the last six years, and concluding with the sarcastic reference: "Is this a utilitarian effort to combat the higher cost of living, or merely the manifestation of an actual fondness for a dish so loathsome?"

WOMAN DRIVEN FROM HOME

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—Declaring that she was driven from home because she could not do as much farm work as a man, Mrs. Alice K. Pitcher, twenty years old, seeks a separation.

Three hundred years ago some one must have buried this wonderful casket of treasures, hoping for an opportunity to secure its safe recovery. That opportunity never came, and the romance or crime that led to its concealment will never be unearthed. The scene of its recovery and the sum that was given to the man who found it remained a secret.



Mrs. F. M. Andrews.

cavalry and by marrying him the next day. Mrs. Andrews has won many prizes by her horsemanship at the shows and has the reputation of being always in the fore at the society fox hunts in the vicinity of Washington. The Andrews will make their home at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, where Lieutenant Andrews' regiment is stationed.

JEWELS OF LONDON MUSEUM

Ancient and Interesting Relics Are Now to Be Seen at Stratford House.

London.—The London museum, removed from Kensington palace to Stratford house, is twice as interesting as it was, and more. At Kensington there was no scope for definite arrangement. In the noble rooms of Stratford house overlooking the mall it has been possible to follow a chronological order and to convey in the costumes and the pictures, in the pottery and the weapons, in the books and the thousands of other local relics, a clear and telling history of London from Saxon times until the present age.

The most interesting addition that has been made to the museum was shown in the gold and silver room at a recent private view. It is a case containing 150 jewels of the early seventeenth century that were found by a workman two years ago in chalk soil 16 feet beneath the cellar floor of an old house in London.

There are gold and enamel pendants and rings, enameled gold chains, a gold and enamel scent bottle set with diamonds and rubies, and a very fine diamond ring, crystal chalices and other communion relics, amethysts, sapphires, rubies, garnets and turquoises.

Like the box in which they were found, with the earth all over them, the pearls had decayed. But for the rest the treasures, as one of the visitors remarked, have the appearance of being so extraordinarily modern that all the gems look as though they might be bought in a jeweler's shop today.

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